

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract as outlined below. A clean copy of the Abstract is provided as an appendix for the convenience of the Examiner. This amendment adds no new matter.

A method of large-scale, fault-tolerant, full service audio conferencing ~~in an audio conferencing system using a purely packet-switched network. An endpoint calls places a call to a conference gatekeeper indicating a conference. an audio conference. The conference gatekeeper either establishes the conference or invokes an interactive voice response server to gather required information, determines whether the call contains sufficient information to establish the audio conference. If there is insufficient information, the endpoint is connected to an IVR server that obtains sufficient information from the endpoint. Either way, a conference allocation and control system CACS selects a~~ multiple control unit (MCU) to hosting or that will host the audio conference. The endpoint is given information to connect or transfer to the selected MCU. The CACS then responds to the endpoint with routing instructions indicating the selected MCU and the endpoint connects or transfers to the selected MCU. The MCU mixes input from all participant endpoints in the audio conference to form a voice stream for return to each endpoint, which is then returned to each endpoint in the audio conference. Audio conference participants can dial-out from the MCU to bring in additional participants into the audio conference. Once established, the audio conference supports full service audio conferencing. In addition, dynamic routing permits an operator to service multiple MCUs, and an audio conference participant and/or an entire audio conference to be moved between MCUs. The audio conference can also be broadcast from a streaming protocol server to passive participants. Dynamic routing permits an operator to service multiple MCUs and allows conference participants to be moved between MCUs. The method also supports streaming to passive conference participants.